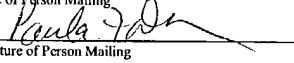




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 20, 2004	
Paula F Durr Name of Person Mailing	
Signature of Person Mailing	

P&G Case 9358

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of :
Francisco Javier Escobar : Confirmation No. 5179
Serial No. 10/659,867 : Group Art Unit 3721
Filed September 11, 2003 : Examiner

For Flexible Manufacturing System for Consumer Packaged Products

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, record is being made on the attached Form PTO/SB08 of documents which the Patent Office may wish to consider in connection with examination of the above-identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be carefully considered by the Examiner and made of record in this case. As provided in §1.97(g), no representation is made or intended that a thorough art search was made. As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission of any kind, and specifically is not an admission that the documents listed on attached form PTO/SB08 are, or are considered to be, material to the patentability of the above-identified patent application, as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

1. **37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1) - U.S. Direct (use when filing IDS with nonprovisional patent application, or with Request for Continued Examination (RCE); or within 3 months of filing a nonprovisional patent application)**

This information disclosure statement, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), is being filed with the patent application, with a Request for Continued Examination or within three months of the filing date of a national application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

2. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) - (use when filing IDS more than 3 months after filing a nonprovisional patent application, but prior to receipt of first Office Action)

This information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). Applicants have not received an Office Action on the merits in the present application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, in the event that this paper is crossing in the mail with a first Office Action on the merits, authorization is hereby given to charge the required fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate of this letter (or a fee transmittal form) is enclosed to facilitate charging of the fee, if necessary.

3. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) - (use when filing IDS prior to receipt of first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under §1.114)

This information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4). Applicants have not received a first Office Action after filing a Request For Continued Examination (RCE). Therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, in the event that this paper is crossing in the mail with a first Office Action on the merits, authorization is hereby given to charge the required fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate of this letter (or a fee transmittal form) is enclosed to facilitate charging of the fee, if necessary.

4. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) with fee payment - (use when filing IDS after receipt of first Office Action, and before receipt of Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution)

This information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). Applicant(s) have not received a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (e.g., *Ex parte Quayle*) as of the date of this submission. Applicant(s) elect to pay the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account Number 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate copy of this letter (or a fee transmittal form) is enclosed to facilitate the charging of the fee.

5. Information to be Considered with Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) Filing (use when filing IDS with a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) for Design Case)
This information disclosure statement is being filed with a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d).

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE NOTED BY THE EXAMINER:

(1) **(For use with applications filed prior to or on June 30, 2003.)** Copies of the cited documents are enclosed.

OR

(2) **(For use with applications filed after June 30, 2003.)** In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), Applicants are submitting copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature.

OR

(3) All of the cited references were previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in prior application Case No. ____, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ____, filed ____. Applicants claim priority to said application under 35 U.S.C. §120. Accordingly, copies of previously submitted references are not provided with this Statement, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be carefully considered by the Examiner and made of record in this case.

OR

(4) Copies of all said documents, except Cite Numbers _____, were submitted and considered in parent application U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____, filed _____. Applicant(s) claim priority to said application under 35 U.S.C. §120. Accordingly, copies of previously submitted references are not provided with this Statement, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). Copies of references not previously submitted are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be carefully considered by the Examiner and made of record in this case.

(5) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(c), a concise explanation of the relevance of each cited reference that is not in the English language is provided.

(6) Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider and make of record the co-pending applications listed on the attached page.

Additional information is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

By Michael S. Kolodesh

Michael S. Kolodesh

Attorney or Agent for Applicant(s)

Registration No. 44,846

(513) 634-0541

Date: January 20, 2004

Customer No. 27752

(IDS.doc) (Last Revised 10/10/03)

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 37 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

PTO-SB08

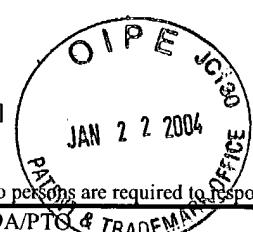
(Revised for P&G use 10/8/2003)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → [+]

PTO/SB08A (08-03)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO & TRADEMA

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

SHEET 1 of 2

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number	10/659,867
Confirmation Number	5179
Filing Date	September 11, 2003
First Named Inventor	Francisco Javier Escobar
Group Art Unit	3721
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	9358

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No. ¹	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-3,864,890	02-11-1975	Ullman	
		US-4,039,182	08-02-1977	Reist	
		US-4,201,286	05-06-1980	Meier	
		US-4,294,345	10-13-1981	Stauber	
		US-4,307,801	12-29-1981	Hansch	
		US-4,320,894	03-23-1982	Reist	
		US-4,381,056	04-26-1983	Eberle	
		US-4,472,783	09-18-1984	Johnstone	
		US-4,638,906	01-27-1987	Winiasz	
		US-4,666,143	05-19-1987	Reist	
		US-4,738,387	04-19-1988	Jaufmann	
		US-4,746,007	05-24-1988	Houseman	
		US-4,754,962	07-05-1988	Kontz	
		US-4,852,722	08-01-1989	Houseman	
		US-4,893,805	01-16-1990	Ebele	
		US-4,905,818	03-06-1990	Houseman	
		US-4,911,423	03-27-1990	Smith	
		US-4,921,294	05-01-1990	Klopfenstein	
		US-4,951,419	08-28-1990	Weber	
		US-4,982,834	01-08-1991	Jacobsen	
		US- 5,014,978	05-14-1991	Smith	
		US-5,064,187	11-12-1991	Muller	
		US- 5,178,262	01-12-1993	Merkli	
		US- 5,203,556	04-20-1993	Smith	
		US-5,280,895	01-25-1994	Meier	
		US-5,310,396	05-10-1994	Momoi	
		US-5,360,101	11-01-1994	Carlen	
		US-5,391,386	02-21-1995	Mally	
		US-5,660,382	08-26-1997	Meier	
		US-5,772,391	06-30-1998	Sjogren	
		US-5,899,447	05-04-1999	Muckenfuhs	
		US-6,227,589 B1	05-08-2001	Brown	
		US-6,341,771 B1	01-29-2002	Sasson	
		US-6,354,048 B1	03-12-2002	Gillett	
		US-6,574,520 B1	06-03-2003	Liu	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No. ¹	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		EP 0 995 702 A1	04-26-2000	Wiedmann		
		EP 0 375 196 B1	08-14-1996	Smith		
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED			